

Abstract

A network node is configured to negotiate for connections for high priority calls (e.g., voice calls) received at the node in the face of otherwise congested outbound communication links. The negotiation is conducted in a fashion that will preserve connections for existing calls associated with the node. For example, the negotiation may be conducted so as to cause one or more of the existing calls to consume less bandwidth over the outbound communication links than was consumed at a time prior to reception of the high priority calls. Such negotiations may be initiated depending on the availability of codec resources and/or compression schemes at the node and may be conducted using OAM cells.